ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Penguin Readers Placement Test 3B

English Level Tests · 30 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
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Explanations

1. Have they finished working yet? I don't think _____.
✓ **C) so**
We use **so** after **think**, **hope** and **expect** to replace a whole clause: **I don't think so.** = I don't think they have finished.

2. Please ask _____ see me.
✓ **B) her to**
The pattern is **ask + person + to + verb**: **Please ask her to see me.**

3. Somebody stole her bag so she _____ money from a friend.
✓ **C) borrowed**
Borrow means take something from someone and give it back later. Not **lent**, because you **lend** money **to** someone; you **borrow** money **from** someone.

4. When he heard the news, he _____.
✓ **A) just smiled**
Two finished actions, one after the other, take the past simple: **When he heard the news, he just smiled.** Not **was just smiling**, because that would mean he was already smiling before he heard the news.

5. '_____ books are these?'

'They're mine!'
✓ **C) Whose**
We use **Whose** to ask who something belongs to. The answer **They're mine!** tells us the question is about the owner.

6. You _____ have a ticket to travel on the train.
✓ **A) must**
Must + verb shows a rule or obligation: **You must have a ticket.** Not **need**, because we say **need to have**.

7. I _____ my uncle since last year.
✓ **C) haven't seen**
With **since** + a point in the past, we use the present perfect: **I haven't seen my uncle since last year.** Not **didn't see**, because the time continues up to now.

8. Those people with the guide have never been _____ before.
✓ **A) abroad**
Abroad means in or to another country: **They have never been abroad. Foreign** is an adjective and needs a noun (**a foreign country**).

9. My wife doesn't eat meat, and I don't, _____.
✓ **A) either**
In negative sentences we use **either** at the end: **I don't, either.** Not **too**, because **too** is for positive sentences. **Neither** comes at the start: **Neither do I.**

10. Have you had _____ to eat?
✓ **A) enough**
Enough means as much as you need: **Have you had enough to eat? Too many** is for countable nouns and means more than you need.

11. Who was the girl _____?
✓ **B) that you were speaking to**
We say **speak to someone**, so the preposition **to** must stay at the end: **the girl that you were speaking to**. Not **that you spoke**, because **to** is missing.

12. She was born _____.
✓ **B) 100 years ago**
We use **ago** after a period of time to say when something happened in the past: **100 years ago**. **For** and **since** are used with the present perfect.

13. We must go now. Call the waiter and ask for the _____.
✓ **A) bill**
In a restaurant, the paper that shows how much you must pay is the **bill**: **Can we have the bill, please?**

14. Hurry, children! I'm going to _____ you to school in the car.
✓ **C) take**
Take means move someone away from here to another place: **I'll take you to school.** Not **bring**, because **bring** means move towards the speaker.

15. She's a friend of _____.
✓ **B) theirs**
After **a friend of** we use a possessive pronoun: **a friend of mine / yours / theirs**.

16. There isn't much news in the paper today, _____.
✓ **B) is there**
The sentence uses **There isn't**, so the question tag is **is there? News** is uncountable and takes a singular verb, so not **are there**.

17. I couldn't find my hat _____.
✓ **C) anywhere**
In a negative sentence (**couldn't**) we use **anywhere**. Not **nowhere**, because that would make two negatives.

18. This book is very easy _____ understand.
✔ **C) to**
After an adjective like **easy**, we use **to** + verb: **easy to understand**.

19. I _____ in bed when she arrived.
✔ **A) was still**
Still goes after **be**: **I was still in bed.** Not **was yet**, because **yet** is used in questions and negatives, usually at the end.

20. We can go out now _____ it isn't raining.
✔ **C) while**
While means during the time that something is happening: **We can go out while it isn't raining.** Not **during**, because **during** is followed by a noun (**during the rain**), not a clause.

21. Is _____ than mine?
✔ **B) her hair longer**
In a question with **be**, the verb comes before the subject: **Is her hair longer than mine? Long** is a short adjective, so we say **longer**, not **more long**.

22. _____ is it to your parents' house?
✔ **C) How far**
We ask about distance with **How far**: **How far is it to the station? How long** asks about time.

23. You _____ come if you don't want to.
✔ **C) needn't**
Needn't means it is not necessary: **You needn't come if you don't want to.**

24. We're all hungry. Go out and buy another _____.
✔ **B) loaf**
Bread is uncountable, so we can't say **another bread**. We count it with **loaf**: **a loaf of bread, another loaf**.

25. She'll be 16 on her next birthday, _____ she?
✔ **B) won't**
The sentence uses **She'll** (**She will**), so the question tag is **won't she?**

26. If you want to succeed, you must work _____.
✔ **A) harder**
Hard is both an adjective and an adverb; its comparative is **harder**. Not **very hardly**, because **hardly** means almost not.

27. 'Come here!' the policeman said in a _____ voice.
✔ **B) loud**
A voice that is easy to hear because it makes a lot of noise is a **loud** voice. We don't say **big** or **large voice**.

28. Both _____ play the piano very well.
✔ **C) of them**
Before a pronoun we say **both of**: **Both of them play the piano.** We can also say **They both play**.

29. She has a very good job. She earns a thousand pounds _____ week.
✔ **A) a**
We use **a** to mean 'each' with time and prices: **a thousand pounds a week**, **twice a day**.

30. _____ in the class likes that teacher.
✔ **A) Everyone**
The verb **likes** is singular, so we need a singular subject: **Everyone likes that teacher.** Not **All the students**, because that needs **like**.

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